

Message Text

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ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EA-06 AID-05 PC-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CG, US, PFOR

SUBJECT: SECOND ELIMA EDITORIAL "ZAIRE EVERYONE'S FRIEND"

REF: KINSHASA 1157

1. IN WHAT APPEARS TO BE HALF-HEARTED ATTETED REFTTEL, KINSHASA DAILY ELIMA FOR FEBRUARY 11 PUBLISHED FRONT-PAGE EDITORIAL ON 5#3.3 23-LIKE-EVERYBODY. HIGHLIGHTS FOLLOWS.

2. GOZ FOREIGN POLICY IS TO HAVE GOOD RELATIONS WITH ALL PEOPLES. MOBUTU IS TIRELESS TRAVELER ALWAYS LOOKING FOR USEFUL HINTS ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENTS. RECENT VISITS TO NORTH KOREA AND CHINA MADE PARTICULARLY FAVORABLE IMPRESSION. SO MOBUTU HAS DECIDED TO FOLLOW THEIR EXAMPLE IN ONE OR TWO AREAS. NOTEWORTHYTHAT THIS HAPPENING AT TIME WHEN CAPITALIST ECONOMY IN SERIOUS TROUBLE. SOCIALIST-PLANNED ECONOMICS NOT AFFECTED BY INFLATION. NOT ONLY HAS ECONOMIC CLIMATE ENCOURAGED ZAIRE TO TAKE ITS INSPIRATION FROM CHINESE AND KOREAN MODELS, BUT IT IS FACT THAT MOST AFRICAN AND ASIAN STATES HAVE SIMILAR ATTITUDE RE DECOLONIZATION AND SOVEREIGNTY OVER OWN RESOURCES.

3. IT WAS IN CONTEXT OF ZAIRE'S GOOD RELATIONS WITH ASIA THAT MOBUTU LAST WEEK GRANTED AUDIENCES TO NORTH VIET-NAMESE AND PRG
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DELEGATIONS. THERE WOULD BE NO HASTY AND INCOMPLETE CONCLUSIONS DRAWN FROM THIS SUCH AS WERE DRAWN FOLLOWING MOBUTU'S ADDRESS TO

RECENT AAI CONFERENCE. ON THAT OCCASION, SOME LISTENERS WERE TOO SUBJECTIVE AND FOREIGN MINISTER HAD TO SET RECORD STRAIGHT AT CLOSE OF CONFERENCE. IT IS DIFFICULT TO UNDERSTAND GUMBLING OF SOME PEOPLE. MOBUTU IS MAN OF HIS WORD. THERE IS NO QUESTION OF DROPPING HIS FRIENDS, SO LONG AS THEY RESPECT OUR LAWS. AT SAME TIME WE INVITE OUR FRIENDS OF EAST AND WEST TO MAKE SURE THEY DON'T BREAK OUR RULES.

4. COMMENT: EDITORIAL PRESUMBLY REFLECTS HIGH-LEVEL DECISION TO TRY TO REMOVE SOME OF STING FROM EARLIER EDITORIAL ATTACKING AMBASSADOR HINTON BY REPEATING CLAIM THAT MOBUTU IS TRUE TO HIS FRIENDS. EDITORIAL MANAGES, NEVERTHELESS, TO END ON VAGUE WARNING NOTE. IN WHAT MAY HAVE BEEN FURTHER EFFORT TO MOLLIFY US, THREE ARTICLES OF US INVESTMENT IN ZAIRE ALSO APPEARED ON THE FRONT PAGE OF ELIMA FOR FEBRUARY 11. END COMMENT.
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